

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

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**MSA
LIVE 21**

PARKTOPIA

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LEAF - INDIA

The Landscape Environment Advancement Foundation (LEAF) is an organisation which was set up by Professor Prabhakar Baghwat in Ahmedabad, India. It was initially set up to further research areas such as plant material, landscape design and environmental sustainability, and in doing so, it became one of the very few organisations in India which support this type of research. Over time, LEAF has been able to expand its scope of work and the research areas which they address.

The research and work that LEAF undertakes informs the design profession, and all relating fields, in a real and impactful manner. This is done through the research process, the methods of collecting information and data, documentation and the representation of the final outcomes.

Collaboration is key to LEAF's work and in any process that they undertake. They value the diversity of different collaborators and the work that is produced by them as it allows them to gain a deeper understanding into different cultures and how nature is portrayed through them.

LEAF has always believed that research plays an indispensable role in how the built environments are constructed and how we inform ourselves of how our environment behaves. Their designs mostly focus on public parks and a lot of research is undertaken into the historical culture and meaning behind parks.

Agenda

Parktopia

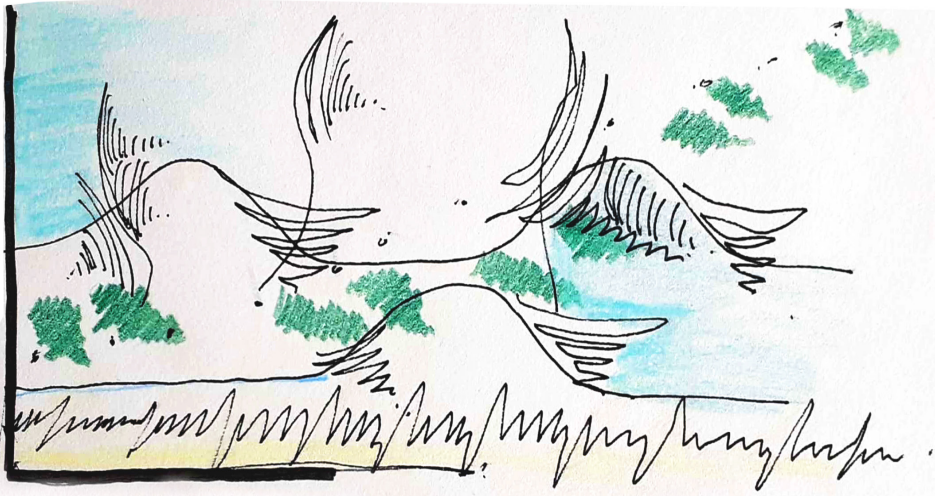
The goal of this project is to redefine the idea of a park being an open void where human activity occurs, being stamped in areas of densely packed buildings. Parks in the current situation, are defined to mean a piece of land on which there are no buildings; plants and flower beds decorate them for aesthetic purposes. The existing fabric of parks follows a single template that if followed worldwide within which slight variations occur. The response of this notion of a park is to be critically analysed and deconstructed in relation to the public inhabiting the urban area.

What is the role of a park in its response to urbanity and more importantly toward the discourse of identity for the park itself and its users specific to geography, culture and context. A case study analysis will be undertaken involving existing parks and tested according to these categories. The outcome of the exercise and project will be highlighting the constituents of a park which responds to a typology with its focus on the socio-cultural, ecological, and economic roles the space invigorates.

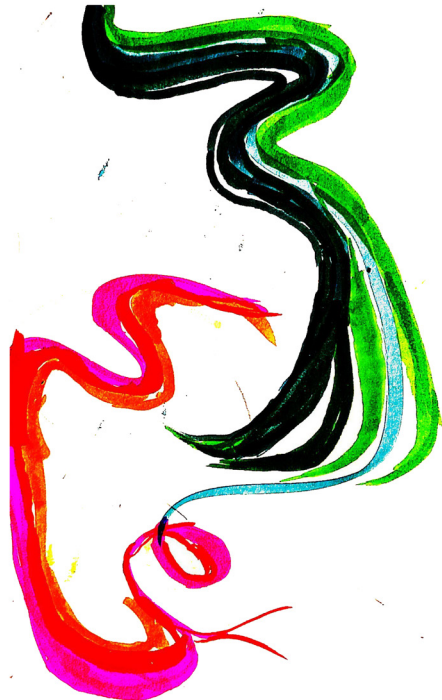
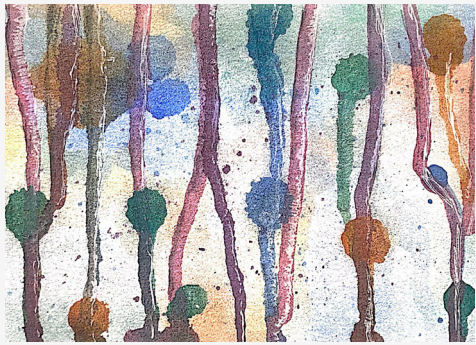
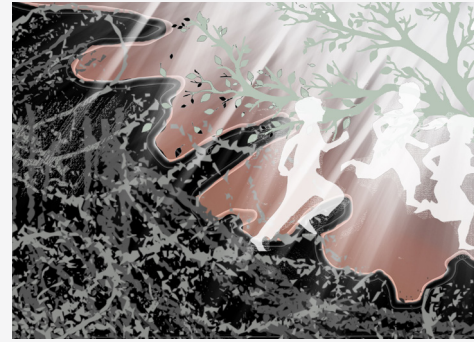
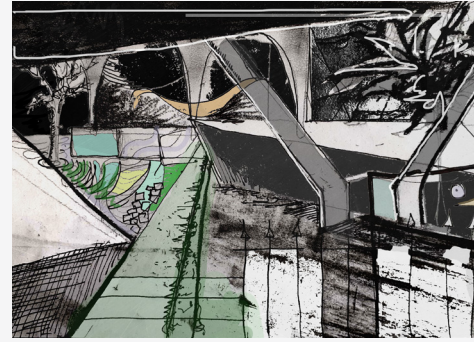
To inform park design and translate typology to user relation – enabled through memory. It can invoke memories of the historical, social, cultural representation of a place brought into park design. For example, Mumbai is a maritime city – how does a park situated in Mumbai relate to its historical, cultural reference?

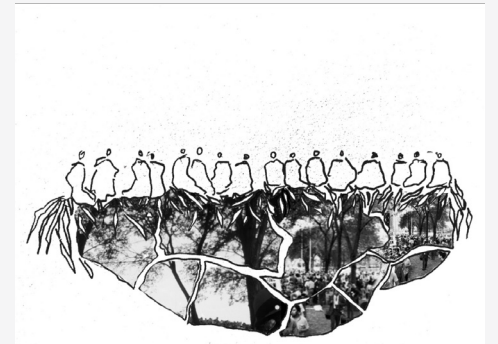
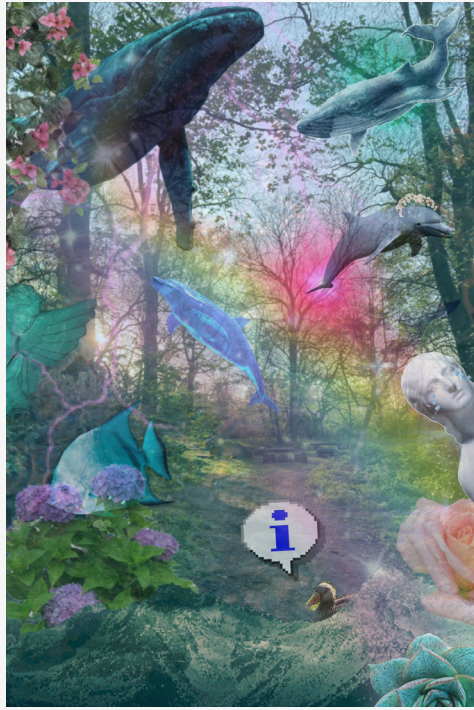
A study on the existing literature between the concepts of spatiality and memory will be explored and commented on. However, existing literature is limited to scientific methods and processes. As each individual might be invoked of different memories through different spatial experiences and symbols. We use abstraction as a method with different sources such as songs, films to study the idea of parks and their representation in different cultures.

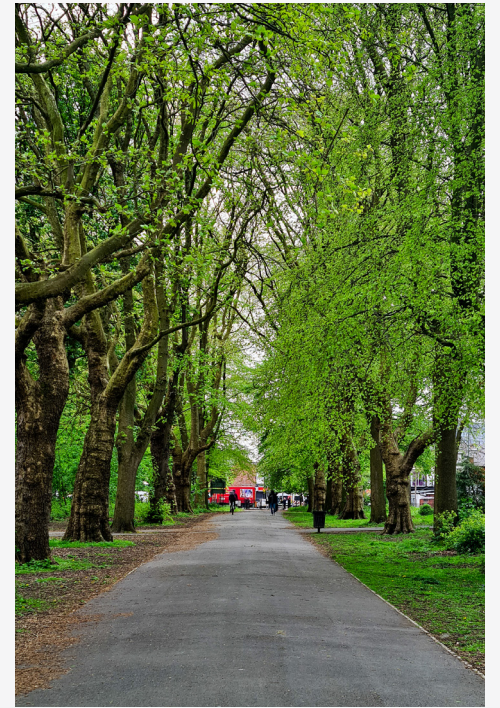
The results are then diagrammed in an abstract manner using the same base for songs and films. To help with visualisation and representation we involve guest speakers such as Ray Lucas and Pandora Layton to capture this aspect of background study. However, we aim to encapsulate the similarities and differences from interviews, abstractions and can act as one of the drivers for park design, in addition to existing literature of memory in architecture.



RIVER MAN, NICK DRAKE

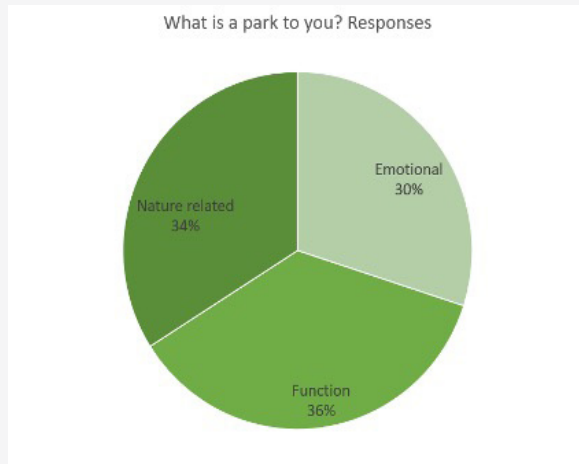






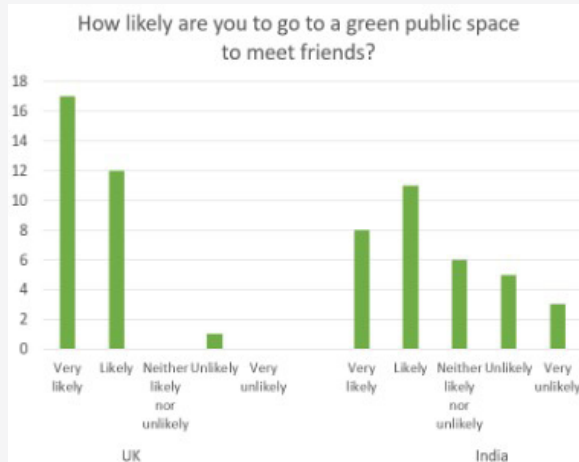
1. What is a park to you?

30% of the people who were interviewed had answers which were emotional whilst 70% answered with physical properties. The physical properties can be split between nature related, such as trees and water features, and function, which can be pathways for walking and benches for sitting down.



2. How likely are you to go to a green public space to meet friends?

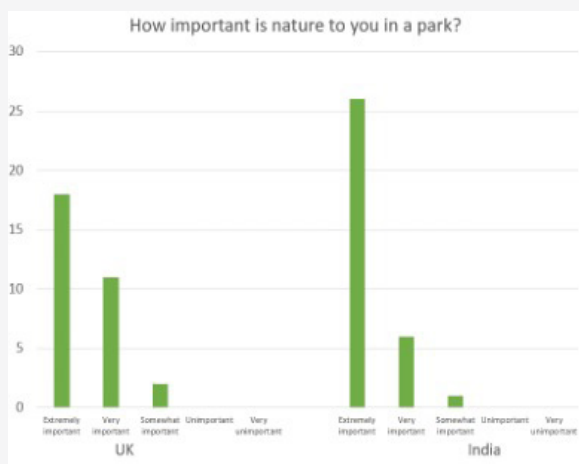
97% of people in the UK are likely to meet friends in a green public space whereas only 70% of people in India, or hotter countries, are likely to meet up in groups.



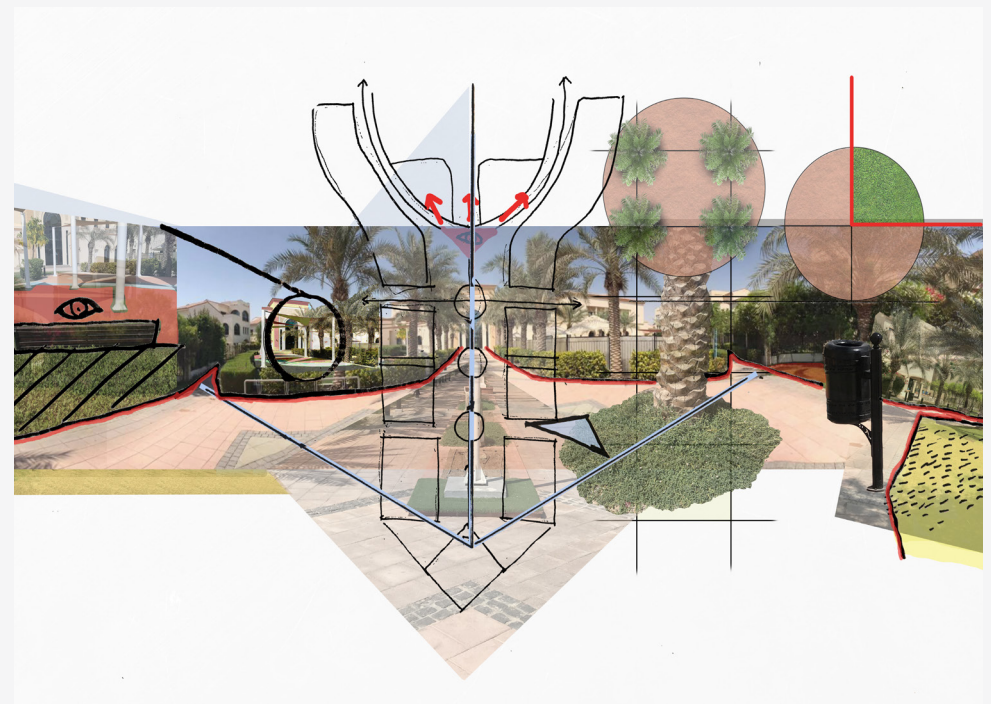
More people in the UK are likely to use parks as recreational areas and can suggest that this is due to the weather.

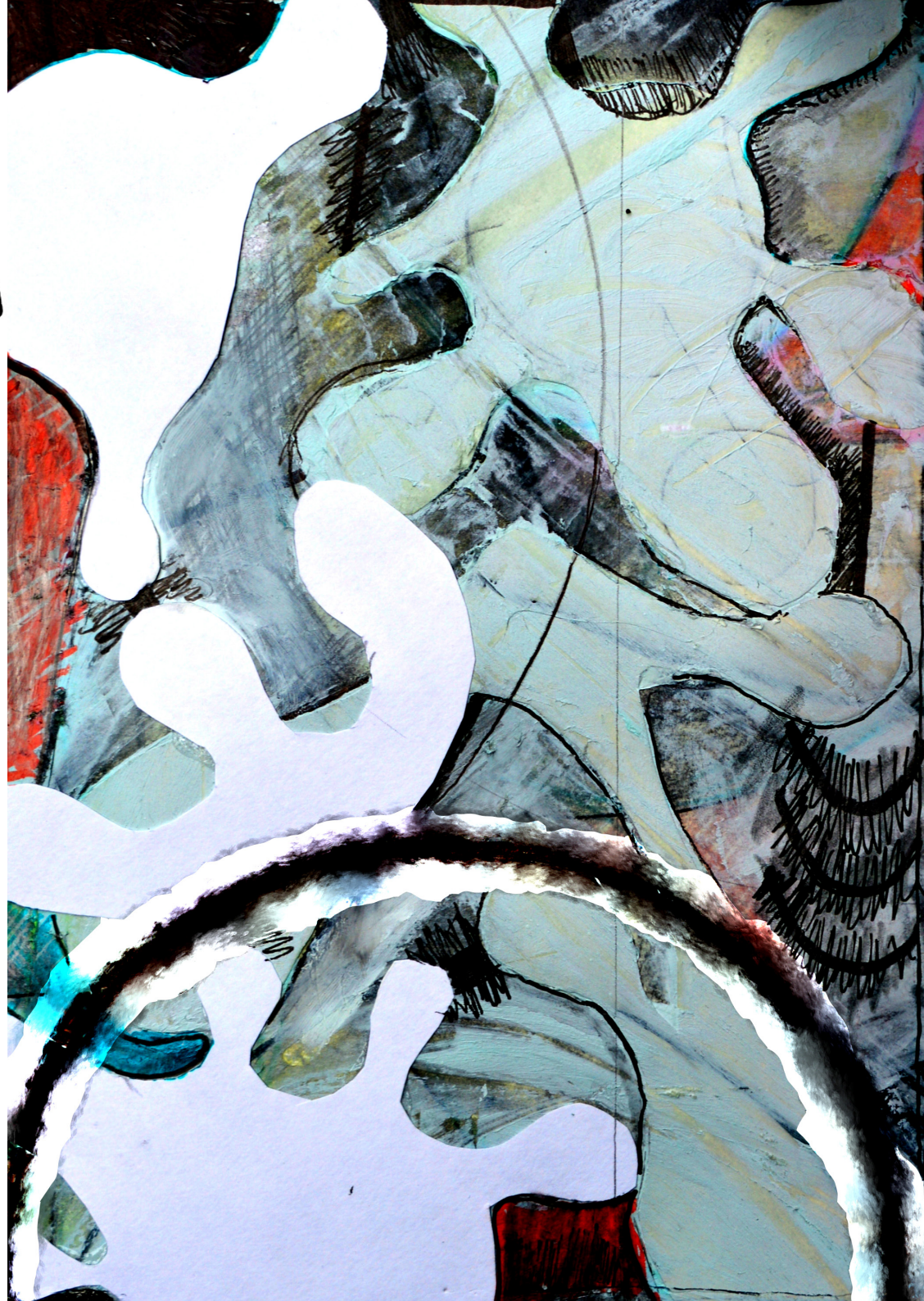
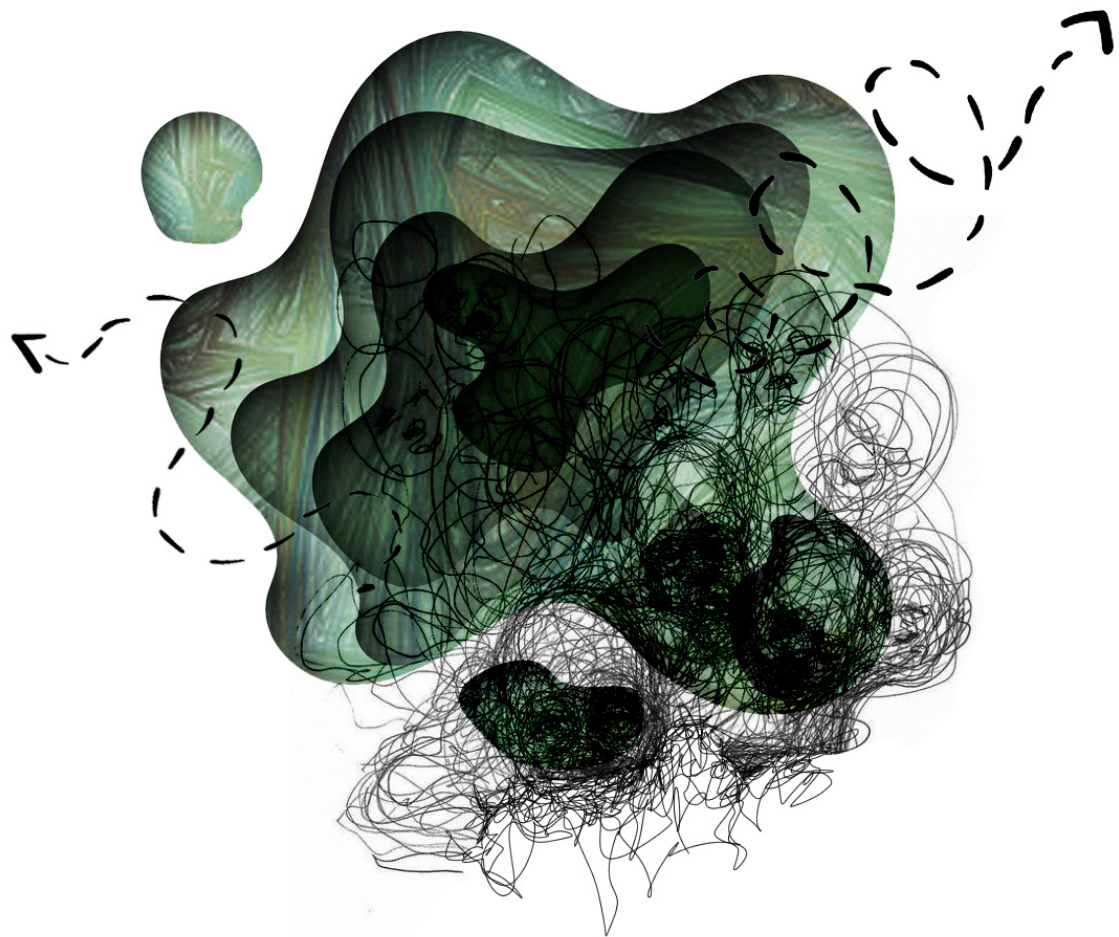
3. How important is nature to you in a park?

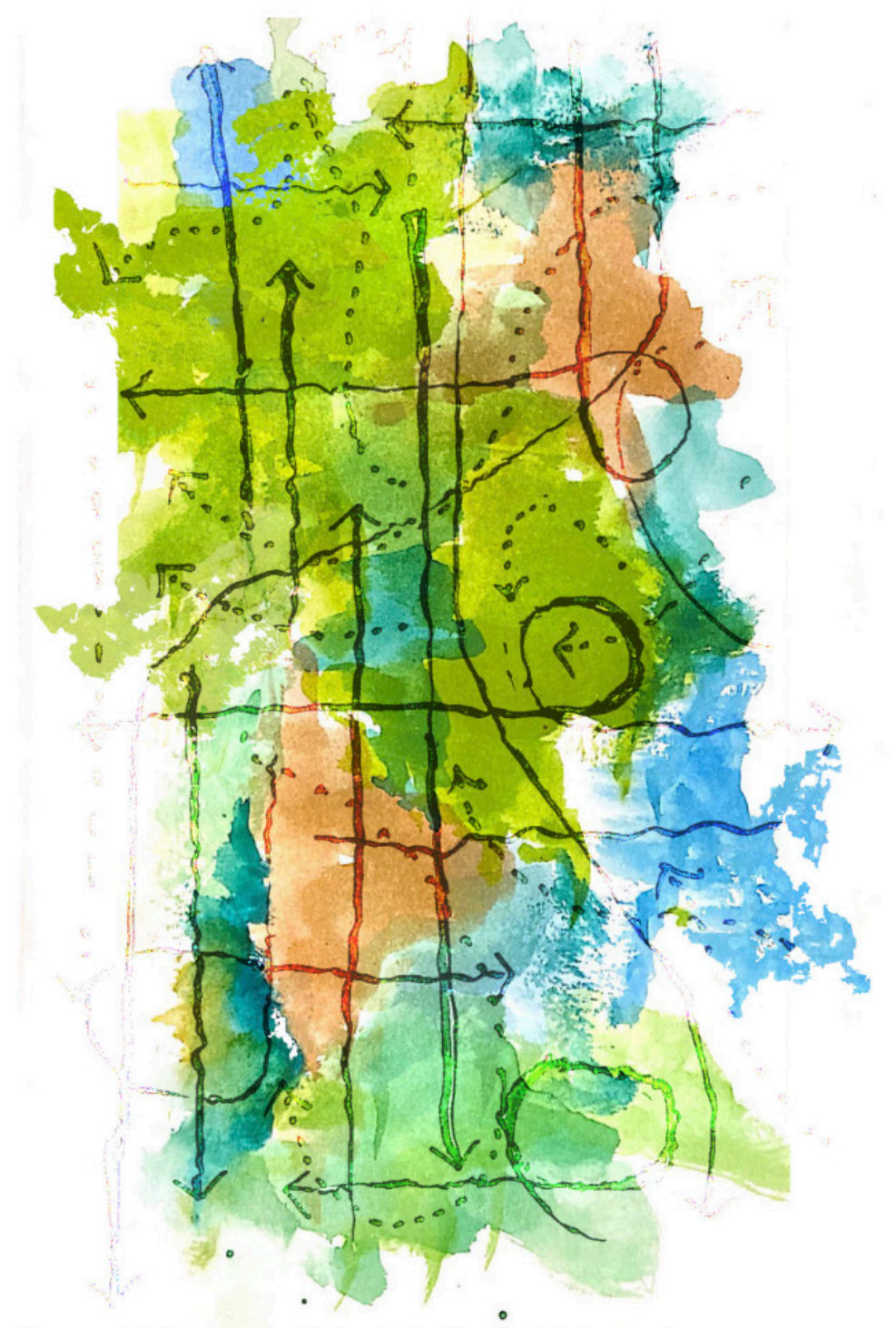
As expected, almost everyone that was interviewed believed that nature, such as trees and greenery, are either extremely or very important in parks.



97% believed that nature is extremely important.







ABOUT

Each year the MSA Live (formerly Events) programme unites M Arch. year 01 with B Arch. year 01 and 02 and M Land. Arch 01 in mixed-year teams to undertake live projects with external partners to create social impact.

LIVE PROJECTS

All MSA Live projects are live. A live project is where an educational organisation and an external partner develop a brief, timescale, and outcome for their mutual benefit.

SOCIAL IMPACT

All MSA Live projects have social impact. Social impact is the effect an organization's actions have on the well-being of a community. Our agendas are set by our external collaborators.

EXTERNAL PARTNERS

MSA LIVE projects work with many organisations: charities, community groups, social enterprises, community interest companies, researchers, practitioners and educators.

STUDENT-LED

Our MSA masters students take the lead in the project conception, brief development, delivery and co-ordination of a small project. Other cohorts join for an eventful 2 weeks of activities at the end of the academic year.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Working in teams within and across year groups and courses; MSA students participate in peer to peer learning. In addition, collaborators, participants and students engage in the transfer of tangible and intellectual property, expertise, learning and skills.

LARGE SCALE

This year approximately 600 students from 4 cohorts in MSA will work on 42 projects with partners.

QUESTIONS

For questions about MSA Live 21 contact MSA Live Lead: Becky Sobell:
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BLOG

live.msa.ac.uk/2021

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